

## NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS



### NOTES FROM SEVERANCE HOSPITAL, SEOUL, KOREA

By ESTHER LUCAS SHIELDS

AS I read Miss M. G. Parsons' fine article in the November, 1908, JOURNAL on "Points in Nursing a Fractured Femur in the Home," it interested me very particularly, the details being so carefully written; but instead of hoping to use most of the special directions, and dreading the use of sand-bags and all the discomfort that means to both patient and nurse even with the best of care, I have been grateful for both patient and nurse in our hospital that Dr. Hirst introduced the "improved Hodgen splint" for nearly all fractures of the lower extremities, and the comfort is simply "heavenly" compared to that of any other splint I have ever seen used.

A Korean woman who had a compound comminuted fracture of the femur, followed by septicæmia, has had to spend months in bed, but by the use of the suspended iron frame, with its support of canvas safety-pinned on frame to keep the limb in proper position, she was able to move and be moved, and suffered none of the consequences of immobility.

Another patient had both femurs fractured, so both lower limbs were swung up in a way to provide extension and counter-extension, the weight of the body pulling against the frame because the foot of the bed is elevated, and the patient needed no more pity or care than most of the other cases in the ward.

Dr. George S. Brown, of Birmingham, Alabama, has sent out a reprint from "*Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, May, 1908, pages 531-543, "An Improved Hodgen Splint for the Treatment of Fractures of the Thigh or Other Painful Affections of the Lower Extremities," in which are clear directions for applying the splint, as well as illustrations and reports of its use. We appreciate very much the great advantages of this treatment over any other that we know.

Our training school for Korean nurses has begun its third year, and we are looking forward hopefully, trusting that we may learn to do really good work. One of last year's graduates from our medical school is translating and giving to the nurses Miss Kimber's "Anatomy and Physiology for Nurses." One of the nurses who knows English is

translating from "Practical Nursing," by Miss Maxwell and Miss Pope,—"The Qualifications of a Nurse," and "The Care and Comfort of the Patient" having already been studied by one or more classes.

Three of the other doctors who graduated last summer from Severance Hospital Medical School have also been giving lectures or classes: Dr. Hong Chung Un using a translation of Mrs. Robb's chapter on "Observations of Symptoms" as text; "Drugs in Common Use, and Poisons and their Antidotes" by Dr. Kim Whe Yung, who has charge of the drug-room; and "Weights and Measures, Including the Metric System" was taught by Dr. Shin. Lessons in nursing, Bible, English, and arithmetic also have a place on our program, each grade being limited to a certain number of classes per day. As we have all kinds of cases, the older nurses have had to be given instruction in operating-room and obstetrical work much earlier in their course than is usual, and the pioneer Korean nurses are of good material, for their way has not been an easy one; their patience and kindness and persistence is not to be overlooked. May God grant them increased strength and wisdom to finish their course nobly; and to those to whom He has entrusted their training, such faith and love and skill in guiding and inspiring them that no one shall fail of doing her best work.

Engraved on the edge of the little open-faced watch carried by one of my co-workers,—a gift to her from a deaconess friend,—are the words: "One more day's work for Jesus." Is it not a beautiful thought to be brought to one's mind every time the watch is used?

I enclose a photograph of our seven nurses, taken late in December, 1908. Two probationers are very soon to be received as pupils.

It is such a pleasure to receive the nursing magazines. We have organized a "Graduate Nurses' Association in Korea," and hope by having this co-operation, to be able to do better work. The doctors invite us to their association meetings, and that has been of more help than you can imagine to one who used to be rather a lonely nurse, but Miss Edmunds and Miss Morrison and Miss Burpee have dissipated that adjective for me. Dr. Avison, who has been in the medical work in Seoul for about fifteen years, and to whose faith and energy is due much of what has been done, is now on furlough in the United States. We earnestly hope that more nurses may be called to Korea to help forward this work. We may be too ambitious, but I so much need a review of up-to-date material for my nurses, that besides the work on regular text-books, I am beginning to have short articles translated and put into a portfolio, hoping that when we have enough collected we may have them copied on a mimeograph, fastened together, and sent out to our co-workers as a journal, perhaps quarterly.



PUPILS IN SEVERANCE HOSPITAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

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One doctor has already given me a carefully prepared article on the nursing of endocarditis, which is yet to be translated.

You may be interested to know the examination questions which were given on the first six chapters of Miss Kimber's "Anatomy and Physiology" by the Korean doctor who taught the classes.

1. How many distinctive tissues are there in the human body? Write their names.
2. How many bones are there in the human body? And into how many groups are they divided according to their shape?
3. Through what do the bones get their nourishment?
4. How many classes of muscular tissues are there in the human body, and what is the situation of each kind?
5. Are there any other things in the striated muscles besides the muscular fibres? If so, what are they?
6. What is the use of fatty tissue?
7. How is respiration accomplished?
8. How do the articulations keep in action continually without wearing away or making pain?
9. What does physiology teach?
10. What does anatomy teach?

The four highest grades were 96, 84, 80, and 72.

A Journal for Nurses in Korea—its aim: To teach and inspire us to work with increasing skill and devotion, that we may be thoroughly equipped to help those who are sick; to demonstrate the possibilities of hygiene, that people may keep in health, and avoid many preventable diseases; that we may be encouraged; to have ideals and to grow towards them; to be cheerful and to give our best selves and our best services willingly, and to never miss the opportunities to be helpful as we take our one journey through this world.

Remember our mission is not to do what we would most like to do, but to discover what is most needed, and to supply that need. "Go where you are most needed." "Do what must be done." "It is not that I wish to be a better nurse than all other nurses, but I long to be as good as the best can be." "Do all you can to make your patient comfortable and cheerful." "Never let up your fight where Disease and Death are the enemies, so long as there is a spark of life remaining." "It is only in victory that the brave cease to fight."

A hospital motto, from Luke 10:9, "Heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, 'The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.'" This is to be printed in English on the inside cover of every number, and translated into Korean for the other inner page of the cover of each number.